

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/566,014	FLOSSNER, UWE
Examiner	Art Unit
Marcus Menezes	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 1/25/07.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 2 and 5-11.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 2 and 5-11 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The applicant's independent claims, claims 9 and 11, have several similarities as well as differences with the Kirk et al. (US 5724707) patent. Included in Kirk et al. as well as in Applicant's invention is the following: a fastening system comprising of a plurality of fastening straps disposed on an object to be fastened, each fastening strap having a free end; a plurality of clothing loops disposed on the article in a row and column arrangement next to and below one another, each clothing loop having a width; a plurality of buckles, each buckle disposed on a respective fastening strap below an upper fastening region; and a plurality of pocket loops disposed next to one another on the article in a lower region of a contact surface of the object to be attached, each pocket loop associated with a respective one of said plurality of fastening straps. However, Kirk et al. does not disclose a plurality of gripper elements where each gripper element has a hook disposed on the free end of a respective fastening strap and where each hook has a hook end and an engagement projection disposed on the hook end, where the hook has a hook length corresponding approximately to the width of the clothing loop. Also not disposed in Kirk et al. is that each gripper element has a plurality of gripper depressions. Previous patents issued have included a hook on the end of a fastener strap on somewhat similar devices, but the hooks do not fit the limitation of

being the width of the clothing loop. Thus, there is motivation as well as structural issues that are not met.

None of the other prior art references whether taken alone or used in combination cure the deficiencies of Kirk et al. Thus, the prior art as a whole made of record does not disclose or suggest the structural arrangement or the combination of structure set forth in Applicant's claims. As a result, the Examiner believes Applicant's claims as presented are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and the general prior art pertaining to fastener systems attached to articles of clothing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Menezes whose telephone number is 571-272-6284. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Marcus Menezes  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

MM



ROBERT J. SANDY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER